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FBIS**MEDIA NOTES**

8 January

REACTION TO U.S. CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF LIBYA

LIBYA: President Reagan's sanctions against Libya are "tantamount to a declaration of war," Tripoli's Voice of the Great Arab Homeland radio said today. The radio said that U.S. sanctions against Libya have not worked in the past and will not work now since U.S.-Libyan trade has dropped to "almost nothing." Libyan Foreign Minister Turayki indicated today that Libya may ask Islamic nations meeting in Morocco for an economic boycott of the U.S., Western news agencies reported.

USSR: TASS today accused the U.S. of again resorting to "state terrorism" by imposing economic sanctions against Libya. TASS said that such "discriminatory measures" are adopted in violation of the UN Charter. The news agency insists that it is the U.S. and not Libya that should be accused of terrorism since President Reagan "sanctioned a secret CIA operation" last fall to overthrow Qadhafi. In another report, TASS quotes Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa as saying today that the USSR and "our friends" will support Libya, "which is being subjected to such a gross and cynical pressure on the part of the United States."]X

EEC COUNTRIES: EEC sources in Brussels said today that several member states have expressed their opposition to the U.S. sanctions, including Britain, West Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, Spain, and Portugal, Western news agencies reported. A Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman is quoted as saying that "economic sanctions are not productive."

AUSTRIA: Foreign Minister Gratz stated his government's position on Tuesday: "No economic or aviation boycotts a la Reagan, but 'less close' relations, plus some concret steps," the Vienna KURIER newspaper reported today. The paper noted that Austria had made its position known even before President Reagan made his call for sanctions last night.

PRC: A Foreign Ministry spokesman today "strongly condemned" the Rome and Vienna terrorist attacks and expressed "concern" over "the recent reaction of the U.S. and Israeli authorities threatening military action," China's XINHUA news agency reported. In a statement, the spokesman said the Chinese Government "opposes this act of violating international law," which is "bound to aggravate the tension in the Middle East."

JAPAN: Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe today expressed his personal support for U.S. sanctions but stopped short of saying whether Japan would support the U.S. move, the KYODO news agency reported. Abe said in a statement that his government would "first collect relevant information and consider a response." KYODO cited Prime minister Nakasone as saying that Japan will "act promptly" on a U.S. request to join in sanctions against Libya.

AUSTRALIA: Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said today that his country would "seriously consider" sanctions against Libya because of its own vulnerability to guerrilla attacks, Melbourne radio reported. He said a decision on sanctions would be made by the Cabinet later this month.

JORDAN: 'ARAFAT VISIT POSTPONEMENT

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has postponed his visit to Jordan scheduled for early this week to an unspecified future date, Western news agencies reported today. In press statements yesterday, 'Arafat said he would visit Jordan when the Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi returns from Moscow.

These items are based on foreign media information available as of 1100